

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1-3, 6-9, 11, 13 and 19, canceled claim 20 without prejudice and amended the figures. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims and figures are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. Accordingly, the Office Action will be discussed in terms of the claims and figures as amended.

The Examiner has objected to the specification and has requested that a substitute specification be filed with accompanying statement that it contains no new matter. Applicant is in the process of preparing such a substitute specification and the statement and will submit them to the Examiner shortly.

The Examiner has objected to Figs. 17-19, stating that they should be labeled prior art. By the enclosed Letter to the Chief Draftsperson submitted for the Examiner's approval, Applicant has designated Figs. 17-19 as prior art.

The Examiner has rejected claims 6-9, 11, 13 and 19 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In view of the above amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6-9, 11, 13 and 19 comply with 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has objected to claim 20 as being in improper multiple dependent form. Applicant has canceled claim 20 without prejudice.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17 and 18 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Sakurai, stating that Figs. 5, 6 and 7 of Sakurai disclose a medical instrument 41, 51 and 71 connected to a main body 40, 50 and 80 via an adapter assembly 61, 63 and 72 and the adapter assembly includes identification signal output means 62, 64, 74 and 75 for actively outputting an identifying signal.

In reply thereto, Applicant would like to point out that Applicant's invention and Sakurai differ in construction, effect and concept. In particular, in Sakurai, a frequency is transmitted to the power unit to identify the hand piece mounted. In contrast thereto, Applicant's invention is not limited to the identification information being provided by the frequency and other and several identification signals can be utilized in Applicant's invention. Still further, in Sakurai since the resonance frequency is only applied during the ultrasonic operation, no identification signal results unless the unit is in operation. In contrast thereto, in Applicant's invention the identification signal is provided without having to apply the ultrasonic signal. As a result, in

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Applicant's invention a plural driving circuits may be provided in the main body in advance and may be selectively and automatically connected based upon the identification signals.

Still further, Applicant respectfully submits that Sakurai is limited to an ultrasonic wave transducer drive circuit as the receiver whereas Applicant's invention utilizes a plurality of different ways as the identification signal. Additionally, since Sakurai distinguishes the instrument connected based upon frequency, it is incapable of distinguishing between plural hand pieces having the same frequency which are attached to the main body. In contrast thereto, in Applicant's invention an individual identification number corresponding to each instrument is allocated so that hand pieces with the same function can be easily distinguished.

Still further, in Sakurai signals are not transmitted when the hand pieces are initially connected to the main body. However, in Applicant's invention identification signals are transmitted when the main body receives electric power when the instrument or hand piece is connected to the main body. Therefore, the identification in Applicant's invention of the instrument or hand piece can be executed at the same time as the connection thereof without any special operations.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the multi junction connector of claim 7 is not shown in Sakurai.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Sakurai does not show or suggest each and every element of Applicant's claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17 and 18 and therefore claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17 and 18 are not anticipated thereby.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 19 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Sakurai, stating that while Sakurai does not disclose whether the adapter assemblies 61, 63 and 72 are tubular, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make them in that shape.

In reply to this rejection, Applicant would like to incorporate by reference his comments above concerning Sakurai and Applicant's invention. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that in Applicant's invention as claimed by claim 3, the tube includes means for actively outputting self-identification signals which are prepared in advance. Applicant respectfully submits that as discussed above, Sakurai does not perform this function and is not constructed in this way. Also, claim 4 requires that the identification signal output means comprises an ID code output element for serially outputting the ID code. Applicant respectfully submits that Sakurai

does not disclose serial outputting the ID code. Still further, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8, 9 and 13 include a multi junction connection, which is not shown in Sakurai.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's invention as claimed by claims 3, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 19 is not shown or suggested by Sakurai and one of ordinary skill in the art would not have created Applicant's invention based upon the teachings of Sakurai. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are not obvious over Sakurai.

Applicant further respectfully and retroactively requests a one month extension of time so as to respond to the Office Action. Please charge Deposit Account No. 11-1445 in the sum of \$110.00 as the fee.

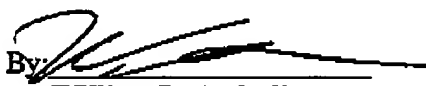
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

KODA & ANDROLIA

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William L. Androlia

Name

Signature

7/29/2002

Date

Application Serial No. 09/909,026

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An identification type instrument assembly detachably connected to a main body of a medical apparatus for use in diagnosis and treatment, wherein said instrument assembly comprises an identification signal output means for actively outputting self-identification signals prepared in advance under a predetermined procedure, said identification signal output means sending said self-identification signals to said main body when receiving electric power from said main body upon connecting said identification type instrument assembly to said main body.

Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

2. (Amended) An identification type instrument assembly detachably connected to a main body of a medical apparatus for use in diagnosis and treatment, comprising:  
an instrument and,  
an adapter detachably fitted to said instrument for connecting said instrument [assembly] to said main body, said adapter housing identification signal output means for actively outputting self-identification signals prepared in advance under a predetermined procedure, said identification signal output means sending said self-identification signals to said main body when receiving electric power from said main body upon connecting said identification type instrument assembly to said main body via said adapter.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) An identification type instrument assembly detachably connected to a main body of a medical apparatus for use in diagnosis and treatment, comprising:  
an instrument and,  
a tube detachably fitted to said instrument [assembly] for connecting said instrument [assembly] to said main body, said tube housing identification signals output means for actively

outputting self-identification signals prepared in advance under a predetermined procedure, said identification signal output means sending said self-identification signals to said main body when receiving electric power from said main body upon connecting said identification type instrument assembly to said main body via said adapter.

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (Amended) The identification type instrument assembly as set forth in any one of claims 1 - 3, wherein said identification signal output means is provided with nonvolatile storage means and [based on the data stored in said nonvolatile storage means,] serial data, voltage level signals of which wave height value is varied at a predetermined repetition cycle, [and] or frequency identification signals of which frequency is varied [are used] is outputted as said identification [signals] signal from said identification signal output means, based on the data stored in said nonvolatile storage means.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (Amended) The identification type instrument assembly as set forth in any one of claims 1 - 3, wherein a connection part for detachably connecting said instrument assembly to said main body is a multi [joint] junction connection.

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

8. (Amended) The identification type instrument assembly as set forth in claim [7] 1, wherein said instrument assembly is comprised of an instrument and an adapter detachably fitted to the instrument and is capable of detachably connecting to a tube introduced from said main body via said adapter, said identification signal output means is provided for said adapter, and connection between said adapter and said tube is multi [joint] junction connection.

Claim 9 has been amended as follows:

9. (Amended) The identification type instrument assembly as set forth in claim [7] 1, wherein said instrument assembly is comprised of an instrument and a tube detachably fitted to the instrument and is capable of detachably connecting to said main body via said tube, said identification signal output means is provided for said tube, and connection between said tube and

said main body is multi [joint] junction connection.

Claim 11 has been amended as follows:

11. (Amended) The identification type adapter as set forth in claim 10, wherein a connection part for detachably connecting said adapter to said main body is multi [joint] junction connection.

Claim 13 has been amended as follows:

13. (Amended) The identification type tube as set forth in claim 12, wherein a connection part for detachably connecting said tube to said main body is multi [joint] junction connection.

Claim 19 has been amended as follows:

19. (Amended) The medical apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 14 - 15, wherein wiring to a connection part detachably connecting said instrument assembly in said main body is [tree] a multi-branch structure.

Cancel claim 20 without prejudice.